

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /176 W
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - THIRD COMMITTEE CONCLUDES
ITS WORK JULY 28 AND FINAL PLENARY ACTION AUGUST 1

1. SUMMARY: THE THIRD COMMITTEE CONCLUDED ITS WORK
FRIDAY, JULY 28, BY APPROVING RESOLUTIONS ON "APPLICATION
OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT", ON
THE "WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAM", ON UNICEF, ON "ADMINISTRA-
TIVE EXPENSES OF THE UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND", ON
"CONSUMER PROTECTION", AND ON THE "UN SPECIAL FUND FOR
LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES". IN ADDITION, THE THIRD
COMMITTEE DECIDED TO RESUME CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 22
(INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITHIN THE UN
SYSTEM) AT ITS RESUMED SESSION AND TO TAKE NOTE "WITH
APPROVAL" OF THE REPORT OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL AT
ITS 25TH SESSION. ALL DECISIONS WERE REACHED WITH-
OUT A VOTE EXCEPT ON THE LAND-LOCKED FUND WHERE A VOTE
OCCURED 32-0-11 (US) AT THE REQUEST OF THE FRG. THE VOTE
WAS FOLLOWED BY EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE BY THE FRG (FOR THE
EC-9), FINLAND, SWEDEN, USA, NZ, AND THE USSR. THE US
JOINED OTHERS IN EXPLAINING ITS ABSTENTION ON THE RESOLU-
TION AS A CONTINUATION OF ITS POSITION ON NON-CONTRIBUTING
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TO THE SPECIAL FUND. THE THIRD COMMITTEE ADJOURNED WITH
MORE OF A SIGH THAN ANYTHING ELSE AFTER WEEKS OF POINTLESS
AND NEEDLESS DEBATE ON ITEMS ON WHICH THE SUMMER SESSION
OF ECOSOC EITHER HAD NO NEED TO REACH DECISIONS AT THE
PRESENT SESSION OR WAS NOT IN POSSESSION OF SUFFICIENT
INFORMATION TO TAKE ANY MEANINGFUL ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF ECOSOC COMPLETED ITS SUMMER SESSION BY THE PASSAGE OF A SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS AND TWO DECISIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS 22 AND 23. FOLLOWING THREE WEEKS OF RATHER POINTLESS AND REPETITIVE DEBATES ON ITEMS WHICH WERE EITHER NOT RIPE FOR ACTION (SUCH AS ITEM 22) OR FOR WHICH INSUFFICIENT PREPARATORY WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED (ITEM 23). A GREAT DEAL OF TIME WAS ALSO NEEDLESSLY SPENT DEBATING ITEMS FOR WHICH THERE WAS NO NEED EVEN TO HAVE INCLUDED THE ITEM ON THE AGENDA IN THE FIRST PLACE (E.G., THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD, UNPRO, -- ALL PERTINENT DECISIONS HAD BEEN REACHED IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS). IT WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, RECOGNIZED IN THE BEGINNING THAT LITTLE PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON ITEM 22 - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM - SINCE THE CPC HAD NOT COMPLETED ITS WORK. HOWEVER, APPROXIMATELY A WEEK WAS SPENT BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS REITERATING PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED POSITIONS OR IN MAKING MINOR POINTS ON MINUTIAE IN THE DOCUMENTATION THUS FAR AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE. THE POSTPONING OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM UNTIL THE RESUMED ECOSOC WAS INEVITABLE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

3. IN THE COURSE OF ITS THREE-WEEK SESSION, THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 22:

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(A) WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME - A HORTATORY-COMMENDATORY RESOLUTION WITHOUT ACTION SIGNIFICANCE COMMENDING THE WMO WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAM AND INVITING COOPERATION THEREWITH (SEE GENEVA 11741 AND 11382);

(B) WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SEE GENEVA 11771);

(C) CONSUMER PROTECTION - NOTES THE SYG REPORT, REQUESTS SYG TO PREPARE ANOTHER REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE 1979 SUMMER SESSION (SEE GENEVA 11743 FOR FULL TEXT);

(D) APPLICATION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT, A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE NEED FOR BETTER USE OF INFORMATION, COMPUTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, NOTES THE UNESCO CONFERENCE ON STRATEGIES AND POLICIES FOR INFORMATION (SPIN) AND INVITING UNESCO DG TO REPORT ON SAID CONFERENCE TO RESUMED REGULAR ECOSOC SESSION 1978 (SEE GENEVA 11772 FOR TEXT);

(E) ON THE QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS IN GENERAL, DISCUSSED UNDER ITEM 22, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO TAKE NO

ACTION ON THE LIBERIAN PROPOSAL FOR A YEAR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUT RATHER POSTPONED CONSIDERATION UNTIL THE 1979 SUMMER SESSION AFTER REQUESTING THE SYG TO PREPARE A REPORT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT EXPERIENCE WITH PRIOR YEARS WHICH COULD FORM THE BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING POSSIBLE CRITERIA FOR SUCH YEARS IN THE FUTURE. THE FRG ON BEHALF OF THE EC-9 HAD ENTERED A HARD-DRIVING RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL YEARS UNTIL CRITERIA FOR ALL FUTURE YEARS COULD BE ESTABLISHED AND UNTIL AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PAST YEARS COULD BE MADE. THE LIBERIAN AND THE FRG DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WERE BOTH WITHDRAWN IN FAVOR OF THE SIMPLE

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ACTION IO-14

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DECISION TO POSTPONE THE ISSUE UNTIL 1979.

(F) IN ADDITION THE COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE OF THE WORLD TOURISM REPORT, THE REPORT ON THE PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD COMMUNICATIONS YEAR, AND THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECGEN ON THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA, AND ON THE STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION, RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

4. UNDER AGENDA ITEM 23:

(A) UNICEF (SEE GENEVA 11703);

(B) THE UK INTRODUCED A SHORT DRAFT DECISION RECALLING ECOSOC DECISION N59 (LXIII), AND DECIDING TO RECOMMEND TO THE GA THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND BE MET FROM VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE

TO THAT FUND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISION 25/19, PARA. 12 OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. THE DECISION PASSED WITHOUT VOTE, ALBEIT THE ALGERIAN AND UPPER VOLTA REPRESENTATIVES ENTERED DISSENTING COMMENTS AFTER PASSAGE (SEE GENEVA 11742);

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(C) UN SPECIAL FUND FOR LAND-LOCKED LDCS - AFGHANISTAN, UGANDA, AND UPPER VOLTA TABLED DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH, INTER ALIA, REQUESTED THE SYG TO MAKE A FRESH APPEAL TO ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND OTHERS IN A POSITION TO DO SO TO MAKE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND. THE RESOLUTION PASSED 32-0-11 (US) AND WAS FOLLOWED BY STATEMENTS BY FRG (FOR EC-9), FINLAND, SWEDEN, USA, NZ AND USSR INDICATING THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS HAD NOT CHANGED THEIR POSITIONS VIS-A-VIS THE FUND.

(D) THE MAIN ISSUE UNDER ITEM 23, COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT, WAS BASICALLY NOT DISCUSSED. THOSE DELEGATIONS THAT SPOKE, FOR THE MOST PART, MERELY REITERATED THEIR POSITIONS IN THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. THE EXCEPTIONS WERE THE UK AND THE NETHERLANDS WHO POINTED OUT THAT THE DISCUSSION COULD IN NO WAY BE DESCRIBED AS A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND WONDERED WHERE THE COMPETENT UN OFFICIAL WAS DURING THE DEBATE - I.E., THE NEWLY-APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (HE WAS FIRST AT THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING, AND LATER AT THE BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE). THE COMMITTEE LIMITED ITSELF TO "NOTING WITH APPROVAL" THE REPORT OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL.

5. AGENDA ITEM 24 - IYC (SEE GENEVA 11525).

6. AGENDA ITEM 25 - SUDANO-SAHELIAN ZONE (SEE GENEVA 11423 AND GENEVA 11283).

7. AGENDA ITEM 26 - TCDC (SEE GENEVA 11569).

8. AGENDA ITEM 28 - COLONIAL RULE ETC. (SEE GENEVA 11383).

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9. AGENDA ITEM 29 - DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR (SEE GENEVA 11688).

10. COMMENT: SINCE THE THIRD COMMITTEE ACHIEVED SO VERY LITTLE, THE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATES FELL WELL WITHIN THE INSTRUCTIONS AVAILABLE. ON AUGUST 1, ECOSOC PLENARY TOOK FINAL ACTION WITHOUT DEBATE ON THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN PARAS 3(A), 3(B), 3(C), 3(D), 3(F) 6, 8 AND 10 ABOVE. PLENARY IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ACTION ON ALL COMMITTEE THREE ITEMS AUGUST 2. VANDEN HEUVEL

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